

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A retaining wall having a front and a back, the wall comprising:
 - a first set of one or more courses, at least a portion of each comprising a plurality of unitary blocks placed side-by-side with respect to each other, wherein each unitary block has a depth extending in a direction from the front to the back of the wall and is not connected to other blocks in the direction of the block depth; and
 - a second set of one or more courses, at least a portion of each comprising a plurality of block assemblies placed side-by-side with respect to each other, each block assembly comprising at least two interconnected block components;
 - wherein the first set of one or more courses is located above or below the second set of one or more courses.
2. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein the first set of one or more courses overlays the second set of one or more courses.
3. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein the second set of one or more overlays the second set of one or more courses.
4. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein:
 - the first set of one or more courses comprises first and second courses of unitary blocks;
 - and
 - the wall further comprises a tie-back sheet positioned between the first and second courses and extending rearwardly into fill material retained behind the wall.
5. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein each block assembly comprises:
 - a face block having a front surface exposed in the front surface of the wall;
 - at least one anchor block; and

at least one elongated trunk block extending between the face block and the anchor block, the trunk block having a first end portion connected to the face block and a second end portion connected to the anchor block.

6. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 5, wherein the face block of each block assembly has a dovetail connector element that interconnects with a complementary dovetail connector element of the first end portion of a respective trunk block, and the anchor block of each block assembly has a dovetail connector element that interconnects with a complementary dovetail connector element of the second end portion of a respective trunk block.

7. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 5, wherein each block assembly comprises:
a first trunk block connected to and extending rearwardly from a respective face block;
a first anchor block connected to the first trunk block opposite the face block;
a second trunk block connected to and extending rearwardly from the first anchor block;
and
a second anchor block connected to the second trunk block opposite the first anchor block.

8. (Currently Amended) A retaining wall comprising:
a first set of one or more courses, at least a portion of each comprising a plurality of unitary blocks placed side-by-side with respect to each other; and
a second set of one or more courses, at least a portion of each comprising a plurality of block assemblies placed side-by-side with respect to each other, each block assembly comprising at least two interconnected block components;
wherein the first set of one or more courses is located above or below the second set of one or more courses;

~~The retaining wall of claim 1,~~ wherein each unitary block comprises a front portion, two wall portions extending rearwardly from the front portion, a rear portion connected to the wall portions opposite the front portion, and a core defined by the front portion, the wall portions, and the rear portion.

9. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein the unitary blocks are coupled to the block assemblies of a vertically adjacent course with block-connecting elements.

10. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein:
the first set of one or more courses comprises a first, lower course of unitary blocks and a second, upper course of unitary blocks; and
the second set of one or more courses comprises a first, lower course of block assemblies and a second, upper course of block assemblies.

11. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 10, wherein:
each unitary block of the second course of unitary blocks is positioned on two unitary blocks of the first course of unitary blocks; and
each block assembly of the second course of block assemblies is positioned on two block assemblies of the first course of block assemblies.

12. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 11, wherein each unitary block of the second course of unitary blocks is connected to two unitary blocks of the first course of unitary blocks.

13. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 11, wherein each block assembly of the second course of block assemblies is connected to two block assemblies of the first course of block assemblies.

14. (Currently Amended) The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein each block assembly has a depth that is greater than the depth of the unitary blocks, and the depth of the unitary blocks is equal to the depth of the wall at the unitary blocks.

15. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein chambers containing fill material are defined between horizontally adjacent block assemblies.

16. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 1, wherein chambers containing fill material are defined between horizontally adjacent unitary blocks.

17. (Currently Amended) A retaining wall having a front and a back, the wall comprising:

a plurality of courses, at least a portion of each comprising a plurality of unitary blocks placed side-by-side with respect to each other in respective courses, each unitary block having a front surface at the front of the wall and a back surface at the back of the wall; and

a plurality of courses, at least a portion of each comprising a plurality of block assemblies placed side-by-side with respect to each other in respective courses, each block assembly comprising at least a first block and second block connected to the first block and extending rearwardly therefrom;

wherein courses including said unitary blocks are located above or below courses including said block assemblies.

18. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 17, wherein the courses including said unitary blocks are located above the courses including said block assemblies.

19. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 17, wherein the courses including said unitary blocks are located below the courses including said block assemblies.

20. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 17, further comprising at least one wall-reinforcing sheet disposed between two vertically adjacent courses including said unitary blocks and extending rearwardly into earth retained behind the retaining wall.

21. (Currently Amended) The retaining wall of claim 17, wherein each unitary block has a depth that is less than the depth of the block assemblies, and the depth of each unitary block spanning the depth of the wall at the unitary blocks.

22. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 17, wherein each block assembly comprises a generally I-shaped assembly having a front block, an elongated trunk block

connected to the front block and extending rearwardly and generally perpendicularly therefrom, and a rear block connected to the trunk block opposite the front block, the rear block being disposed in a generally parallel relationship with respect to the front block.

23. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 17, wherein each course is set back from an adjacent lower course to form a sloped wall face.

24. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 17, wherein each unitary block has a width that is equal to the width of the block assemblies.

25. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 17, wherein each unitary block has a height that is equal to the height of the block assemblies.

26. (Currently Amended) A retaining wall having a front surface and a back surface, the wall comprising:

a plurality of courses, a portion of each comprising a plurality of single blocks arranged side-by-side, each single block having a front surface in the front surface of the wall and a back surface in the back surface of the wall;

at least one tie-back sheet disposed between single blocks in adjacent courses;

a plurality of different courses, a portion of each comprising a plurality of block assemblies arranged side-by-side, each block assembly comprising a front block, at least one elongated trunk block connected to and extending rearwardly from the front block, and at least one anchor block connected to the trunk block opposite the front block; and

wherein the courses including the single blocks are located above or below the courses including the block assemblies.

27. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 26, wherein the trunk block of each block assembly is connected at one end thereof to a respective front block with a dovetail connection and at an opposite end thereof to a respective anchor block with a dovetail connection.

28. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 27, wherein chambers filled with fill material are defined between adjacent block assemblies in each course.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a retaining wall, the method comprising:

forming a portion of at least one course from a plurality of single blocks, each single block having a depth spanning the depth of the wall at each single block; and

forming a portion of at least one different course from a plurality of block assemblies, each block assembly having at least two interlocking block components.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the course that includes the single blocks is constructed on top of the course that includes the block assemblies.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the course that includes the block assemblies is constructed on top of the course that includes the single blocks.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein forming a portion of at least one course from a plurality of single blocks comprises forming portions of a plurality of courses from single blocks.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, further comprising positioning a tie-back sheet between single blocks in the adjacent courses, the tie-back sheet extending rearwardly into fill material retained behind the wall.

34. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein forming a portion of at least one course from a plurality of block assemblies comprises forming portions of a plurality of courses from block assemblies.

35. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein forming a portion of at least one course from a plurality of block assemblies comprises assembling the interlocking block components to form the block assemblies.